

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HAL JACKSON CONTINUES HIS CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICAN AMERICAN TEENAGERS THROUGH HIS TALENTED TEENS COMPETITION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a report written in the New York CARIB News on July 24, 2007 entitled, "Who Will Become the World's Top Teen?"

This article highlights the accomplishment of Hal Jackson, the group chairman of Inner City Broadcast Holdings, Inc., who created the Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International Scholarship Competition. The scholarship competition is now in its 37th year of existence and has promoted hundreds of Black teenaged women to a greater awareness of their beauty and intelligence. The most recent competition was held on Saturday, July 28, at the Harlem State Aaron Davis Hall.

I applaud Mr. Jackson for his contributions in providing the opportunity for young women of every color the chance to compete for scholarships to the college or university of their choice.

WHO WILL BECOME THE WORLD'S TOP TEEN?

HAL JACKSON'S TALENTED TEENS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

NEW YORK.—Long before reality TV competitions became a part of American culture, Hal Jackson, group chairman of Inner City Broadcast Holdings, Inc., created a unique opportunity for young women of every color to compete for scholarships to the college or university of their choice, based on talent, personality and achievement and appearance.

Now in its 37th year of existence, Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International returns to New York, for its annual competition, which will be held Saturday, July 28 at Harlem Stage, Aaron Davis Hall, 135th and Convent Ave., New York City.

Approximately 40 young ladies, ages 13 to 17 will vie for the coveted title of Miss Talented Teen International, currently being held by Raquel Winchester, a 16-year-old opera singer from Trinidad. Miss Winchester has spent the past year representing her country by making a series of personal appearances where she has displayed her exceptional winning talent.

Unlike other contests, Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International features contestants who are role models in their communities who have mastered public speaking ability and skills which enhance their scholastic ability. Each contestant will have two minutes to perform the talent of their choice to judges who represent a myriad of fields. During the week of July 21-28, 2007, the contestants will tour New York City, visit Mayor Mike Bloomberg's office, and have an opportunity to visit 1190 AM-WLIB, and 107.5 FM-WBLS and the station for which Hal Jackson has broadcast his Sunday Classics for well over 20 years.

In addition to touring the sites and rehearsing production numbers for the upcoming

July 28th show, they will sample some of New York's finest cuisine. One of the week's highlights will be a dinner honoring individuals who have supported Talented Teens International on Thursday, July 26th at Tavern on the Green. During the dinner, special recognition will be given to various professionals, including musical legends Ashford and Simpson, who have donated their services to Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International in the past. For more information regarding Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International, contact 212-592-0413.

HONORING ANN M. SOLDO

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of a truly exceptional member of her community. On this day we celebrate Mrs. Ann M. Soldo's 50 years of service and membership in Soroptimist International of Watsonville, as well as the many other important accomplishments and contributions she has made for the city of Watsonville. Over the years she has been an invaluable asset to the community. She has served as an educator of our youth, a leader in local politics, and as a member of countless clubs and organizations. All of these activities speak volumes about her commitment to improving the lives of others.

Ann began her education in Watsonville, California at Pajaro Elementary School and later studied at Watsonville Union High School. She received her associate of arts degree from Hartnell College in 1940 and a bachelor of arts degree from San Jose State University in 1942. Upon graduating, Ann began a career in education, teaching at the Hall District School. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, Ann taught at several other elementary schools, including a U.S. Army School in Germany. In 1954 she received her master's degree from Stanford University and eventually moved from teacher to principal, constantly demonstrating her penchant for leadership. After years of educating young minds, she finally retired from Pajaro Valley Unified School District in 1978.

Although she had completed her career in education, Ann continued to demonstrate exemplary leadership in the community. In 1979 she was elected to the Watsonville City Council and was appointed vice-mayor. In 1983 Ann made history when she became the first female mayor of the city of Watsonville.

Ann has contributed countless hours to community organizations in the pursuit of helping others. She has been a president of the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz County, Soroptimist International of Watsonville, the California Elementary School Administration Central Coast Section, the Pajaro Valley Performing Arts Association, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Monterey Bay; to name just a few. She has also served as a board

member for the Watsonville Community Hospital and the Visiting Nurse Association of Santa Cruz County and other charitable organizations. Mrs. Soldo is extremely well respected for her years of hard work and dedication to helping others. In the year 2000 the Ann Soldo Elementary School, named in her honor, opened its doors in Watsonville, California.

Her 50 years of membership to Soroptimist International of Watsonville will be celebrated on September 17, 2007 with the declaration of this date as Ann M. Soldo Day. The mission of Soroptimist International is to "improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world." As her outstanding record of community service demonstrates, Ann has truly lived this motto throughout her years as an educator and local leader, and through her selfless involvement in community organizations. I am honored to know this amazing woman and am proud to acknowledge her tremendous achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2007*

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 865, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended to H. Res. 257, which supports the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF VA MEDICAL HOSPITAL OF WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 14, 2007*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the VA Medical Hospital of Wilmington, DE as a 2007 recipient of the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This award is given to those employers who have gone above and beyond in their support for their employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserve. The VA Medical Hospital has earned this honor through its unflagging support for our Nation's troops and its commitment to our Nation's security.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is the United States' government's highest recognition for those employers who support their employees in the National Guard and Reserve. Candidates are judged on several categories, including their pay policies, benefits and leave policies, and supervisor training.

In order to be honored with this prestigious award, an employer must be nominated by an

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